IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method for scrambling information bits in a communications system, comprising:
determining a scrambling sequence based on ~~in accordance with~~ a metric of system time, wherein said determining a scrambling sequence includes determining the metric based on a subinterval of a system time interval of a channel in which the information bits are to be transmitted; and
scrambling information bits with the determined scrambling sequence in accordance with the metric.

2.   (Cancelled)

3.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said determining the metric in accordance with a subinterval of a system time interval in which the information bits are to be transmitted comprises:
determining the metric in accordance with a first subinterval of the system time interval.

4.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said determining the scrambling sequence in accordance with a metric of system time comprises:
performing mapping of the metric on the scrambling sequence.

5.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said scrambling information bits with the scrambling sequence comprises:
performing an exclusive-OR of the information bits with the scrambling sequence.

6.   (Currently Amended) A method for unscrambling information bits in a communications system, comprising:
determining an unscrambling sequence based on ~~in accordance with~~ a metric of system time, wherein said determining an unscrambling sequence includes determining the metric

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based on a first subinterval of a system time interval of a channel preceding a second subinterval of the system time interval by a pre-determined number of subintervals, the second subinterval including information bits to be unscrambled; and

unscrambling information bits with the determined unscrambling sequence in accordance with the metric.

7.   (Cancelled)

8.   (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 6, wherein said determining the metric in accordance with a first subinterval of the system time interval preceding a second subinterval of system time interval by a pre-determined number of subintervals comprises:

determining the first subinterval of the system time interval preceding the second subinterval of the system time interval by one subinterval.

9.   (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 6, wherein said determining the uscrambling sequence in accordance with the metric comprises:

performing mapping of the metric on the unscrambling sequence.

10.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein said unscrambling information bits with the scrambling sequence comprises:

performing an exclusive-OR of the information bits with the unscrambling sequence.

11.   (Cancelled)

12.   (Cancelled)

13.   (Cancelled)

14.   (Cancelled)

15.   (Cancelled)

16.   (Cancelled)

17.   (Cancelled)

18.   (Cancelled)

19.   (Cancelled)

20.   (Currently Amended) An apparatus for scrambling information bits in a communications system, the apparatus comprising:

means for determining a scrambling sequence based on ~~in accordance with~~ a metric of system time, wherein said determining a scrambling sequence includes determining the metric based on a subinterval of a system time interval of a channel in which the information bits are to be transmitted; and

means for scrambling information bits with the determined scrambling sequence in accordance with the metric.

21.   (Cancelled)

22.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein said means for determining the metric in accordance with a subinterval of a system time interval in which the information bits are to be transmitted comprises:

means for determining the metric in accordance with a first subinterval of the system time interval.

23.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein said means for determining the scrambling sequence in accordance with a metric of system time comprises:

means for performing mapping of the metric on the scrambling sequence.

24.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein said means for scrambling information bits with the scrambling sequence comprises:

means for performing an exclusive-OR of the information bits with the scrambling sequence.

25.   (Currently Amended) An apparatus for unscrambling information bits in a communications system, the apparatus comprising:

means for determining an unscrambling sequence based on ~~in accordance with~~ a metric of system time, wherein said determining an unscrambling sequence includes determining the metric based on a first subinterval of a system time interval of a channel preceding a second subinterval of the system time interval by a pre-determined number of subintervals, the second subinterval including information bits to be unscrambled; and

means for unscrambling information bits with the determined unscrambling sequence in accordance with the metric.

26.   (Cancelled)

27.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 25, wherein said means for determining the metric in accordance with a first subinterval of the system time interval preceding a second subinterval of system time interval by a pre-determined number of subintervals comprises:

means for determining the first subinterval of the system time interval preceding the second subinterval of the system time interval by one subinterval.

28.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 25, wherein said means for determining the uscrambling sequence in accordance with the metric comprises:

means for performing mapping of the metric on the unscrambling sequence.

29.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 25, wherein said means for unscrambling information bits with the scrambling sequence comprises:

means for performing an exclusive-OR of the information bits with the unscrambling sequence.

30.   (Cancelled)

31.   (Cancelled)

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32.   (Cancelled)

33.   (Cancelled)

34.   (Cancelled)

35.   (Cancelled)

36.   (Cancelled)

37.   (Cancelled)

38.   (Cancelled)

39.   (New) An apparatus for scrambling information bits in a communications system, the apparatus comprising:

a sequence generator for determining a scrambling sequence based on an interval of a channel in which the information bits are to be transmitted; and

a scrambler for scrambling information bits with the determined scrambling sequence in accordance with the interval of the channel.

40.   (New) An apparatus for unscrambling information bits in a communications system, the apparatus comprising:

a sequence generator for determining an unscrambling sequence based on a first subinterval of a system time interval of a channel preceding a second subinterval of the system time interval by a pre-determined number of subintervals, the second subinterval including information bits to be unscrambled; and

a unscrambler for unscrambling information bits with the determined unscrambling sequence in accordance with the unscrambling sequence.

41. (New) A computer program product, comprising:

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a computer-readable medium comprising for causing code executable on at least on

computer to:

determine a scrambling sequence based on a metric of system time, wherein said determining a
    scrambling sequence includes determining the metric based on a subinterval of a system
    time interval of a channel in which the information bits are to be transmitted; and

scramble information bits with the determined scrambling sequence in accordance with the
    metric.